

4 (amended). A method for treating a person, diagnosed for having an increased risk for the development of atherosclerosis on the basis of a polymorphism in the signal peptide part of the human preproNPY, said polymorphism comprising the substitution of the position 7 leucine for proline in the signal peptide part of said preproNPY, for the prevention of developing atherosclerosis, comprising administering to said person an effective amount of an agent counteracting the influence of the mutated NPY gene.

7 (amended). A method for treating a person, diagnosed for having an increased risk for the development of atherosclerosis on the basis of a polymorphism in the signal peptide part of the human preproNPY, said polymorphism comprising the substitution of the position 7 leucine for proline in the signal peptide part of said preproNPY, for the prevention of developing atherosclerosis, comprising subjecting the person to specific gene therapy aimed to repair the mutated NPY sequence.

8 (amended). A method for treating a diabetic person, diagnosed for having an increased risk for the development of diabetic retinopathy on the basis of a polymorphism in the signal peptide part of the human preproNPY, said polymorphism comprising the substitution of the position 7 leucine for proline in the signal peptide part of said preproNPY, for the prevention of developing diabetic retinopathy, comprising administering to said person an effective amount of an agent counteracting the influence of the mutated NPY gene.

11 (amended). A method for treating a diabetic person, diagnosed for having an increased risk for the development of diabetic retinopathy on the basis of a polymorphism in the signal peptide part of the human preproNPY, said polymorphism comprising the substitution of the position 7 leucine for proline in the signal peptide part of said preproNPY, for the prevention of developing diabetic retinopathy, comprising subjecting the person to specific gene therapy aimed to repair the mutated NPY sequence.